

AN INTERESTING LITERARY FACT.—The fame of Bunyan during his life, and during the century which followed his death, was indeed great, but was entirely confined to religious families of the middle and lower classes. Very seldom was he during that time mentioned with respect by any writer of great literary eminence. Young coupled his prose with the poetry of the wretched D'Urfey. In his "Spiritual Quixotte," the adventures of Christian are ranked with those of Jack the Giant Killer and John Hickathrift. Cowper ventured to praise the great allegorist, but did not venture to name him. It is a significant circumstance that till a recent period, all the numerous editions of the "Pilgrim's Progress" were evidently meant for the cottage and the servant's hall. The paper, the printing, the plates, were all of the meanest description. In general, when the educated minority and the common people differed as to the merit of a book, the opinion of the educated minority prevails. The "Pilgrim's Progress" is perhaps the only book about which, after the lapse of a hundred years, the educated minority has come over to the opinion of the common people.—[Maganlay.

An Inquiring Mind.

A gentleman riding in an eastern railroad car, which was sparsely supplied with passengers, observed in a seat before him a lean, shabbily-dressed Yankee, every feature of whose face seemed to ask a question, and a little circumstance soon proved that he possessed "a most inquiring mind." Before him, occupying the entire seat, sat a lady dressed in deep black, and after shifting his position several times, and maneuvering to get an opportunity to look her in the face, he at length caught her eye. He nodded familiarly to her, and asked, with a nasal twang utterly incapable of imitation, "In affliction?" "Yes, sir," replied the lady. "Throat—father or mother?" "No, sir." "Child, perhaps—a boy or girl?" "No, sir, not a child," was the response. "I have no children." "Husband, then, expect?" "Yes," was the curt answer. "Hum—cholera? a trading man, maybe?" "My husband was a seafaring man—the captain of a vessel; he didn't die of cholera—he was drowned." "Oh, drowned, eh?" pursued the inquisitor, hesitating for a brief instant. "Save his child?" he asked. "Yes; the vessel was saved, and my husband's efforts," said the widow. "Was they?" asked the Yankee, his eyes brightening up. "Phineas man?" he continued. "He was a member of the Methodist Church." The next question was a little delayed, but it came. "Don't you think you got a great cause to be thankful that he was a pious man and saved his child?" "I do," said the widow, abruptly, and turning her head to look out of the car window. The indefatigable "pump" changed his position, held the widow by his "glittering eye" once more, and propounded one more query, in a lower tone, with his head slightly inclined forward over the back of the seat. "Was you calculating to get married again?" "Sir!" said the widow, indignantly, "you are impertinent;" and she left the seat, and took another on the other side of the car. "Pears to be a little huffy!" said the ineffable bore, turning to our narrator behind him; "she needn't be mad; I didn't want to hurt her feelings. What did they make you pay for that umbrella you got in your hand? It's a real pooty one!"

What meal is pleasanter than a Sabbath morning breakfast at home, in the bosom of your family? The bright sunshine streams through your curtained windows, the far off sound of holy bells, is wafted upon the breeze, and before and around you are the sweetest smiles of those whom you love.—The cares of the world are temporarily forgotten, and a brighter and a holier feeling dawns upon your heart. You experience in the full sense of the word that the Sabbath is a day of rest and prayer, and the holy influence of the time and hour makes you a better and a happier man.

Ladies who are disposed to punish their husbands, should bear in mind that a little sunshine will melt an icicle much quicker than a regular northeaster.

Senator Houston is a strange man among strangers. He has two large printed notices hung up in his room at Willard's Hotel, saying: "My bed time is 9½ o'clock precisely," when it is notorious that he never went to bed at as early an hour. It is also notorious that Gen. Houston never goes to bed till every one else is asleep, and then he must go into the street to see if everybody is abed before he will go himself. He looks out for housebreakers and burglars.

A VALUABLE DISCOVERY.—A very superior article of Spanish Brown has been lately found near Elyton, Alabama, which has been tested by competent persons, and pronounced to be better than the imported article.

A medal has just been struck in Paris to commemorate the triple alliance of France, England and Turkey. It bears the motto—"Catholicism, Protestantism, Islamism—God protects them."

MEAN SPIRIT.—Russia, enraged with Turkey for having been the cause of depriving her of her markets for tallow, revenges herself by stirring up Greece!

THE LAW OF 1834 AND THE NEBRASKA BILL.—The Washington correspondent of the New York Times writes to that journal as follows:

As I have already intimated, the law of 1834, excluding foreigners from the Indian Territory of Nebraska, except they have passports from the War Department, is not maintained by the Nebraska Bill, but is essentially defunct, because it is "locally inapplicable." The Nebraska Bill having opened the Territory to settlement, and provided for the extension over it only of such laws of the United States as are "not locally inapplicable." To show that this view is correct, I have only to remark that if the view ascribed to Col. Benton is correct, nobody who ever can go into Nebraska or Kansas at all, except he be an Indian, a Government Agent, or a licensed trader, or passported foreigner, because the old law prohibiting all others from going into the Territories, is no more repealed than the law prohibiting foreigners, and is just exactly as "locally applicable." But the whole spirit and tenor of the bill looks to the settlement of the Territories; and there is nothing in any existing general or special legislation which can even by implication, make any distinction in the admission of aliens and citizens.

BITE OF A RATTLESNAKE.—We happen to know something about this, and can suggest an effectual remedy. We mean alcoholic liquor. The philosophy of it is simply this. The venom of a serpent is a powerful sedative, which it requires powerful stimulants to counteract. We once saved the life of a valuable domestic by giving him (in the absence of any other liquor) a whole bottle of alcohol in doses of half a tumbler at a time. It was only when he drank the last portion that intoxication showed itself—so powerful was the sedative action of the poison. Once made a man, who has been bitten by a venomous reptile, drunk, and the victory is achieved. From that moment he is safe and the sore may be treated as an ordinary and slight flesh wound.—[N. O. Crescent.

EXTRAORDINARY GROWTH OF WOOL.—We learn that Mr. Bennet Branch, of Ross township in this county, cut fifty-three and a half pounds of wool from six sheep at one cutting. One of the fleeces weighed twelve pounds and another eleven and a half pounds. The sheep are of the Bakewell breed, and only two years old. We are not experienced in the business of wool growing, but it strikes us this is an extraordinary yield.—[Hamilton Telegraph.

MUSKETS AGAINST SPADES.—The U. States army numbers about 10,000 men, who cost the country last year \$8,525,240 for pay, subsistence, clothing, &c. The Illinois Central railroad army numbers 10,000 men, who receive from the company \$3,700,000 per annum. In three years they will make 700 miles of road, adding greatly to the wealth of the state and country. In 30 years the U. States have spent \$200,000,000, for which they have nothing to show but some old forts, guns, battered uniforms, and demoralized veterans.—[Alb. Ex.

The N. Y. Herald says that Barnum gets for his services as president of the Crystal Palace, 15 per cent. of the gross receipts until they amount to \$150,000, and after that 15 per cent. on the net receipts.

An exchange paper asks very innocently, if it is any harm for young ladies to sit in the lap of ages. Another replies that it all depends on the kind of ages selected. Those from 18 to 25 it puts down as extra-hazardous.

One of the mission teachers at the Friends' Shawnee mission, in Kansas, writes that there is now in that territory an extensive missionary establishment under the direction of the Methodist Church South, at which slaves have been kept for a long time. The missionaries sought to introduce slavery and the gospel of Christ at the same time.

In Moscow there are published four newspapers and nine magazines. In Riga, four newspapers and three magazines. In Odessa there are three newspapers and two magazines. The Journal d'Odessa appears twice a week; and there is an Italian paper also published there.

The Springfield Post, until now a Hunker Democratic paper, proclaims as its watchword hereafter, the unconditional repeal of the fugitive slave law of 1851. The present congress, it says, has repealed the Missouri compromise for the avowed purpose of doing away with congressional legislation upon the slavery question. Let it for the same reason repeal the fugitive slave law.

We are to-day enabled to state, that on Tuesday last the long debated treaty relative to reciprocal trade between the United States and these Provinces was actually signed on behalf of H. M. Government and of the U. States. In those colonies which accept its provisions, the treaty will go into immediate operation; while in those provinces which reject, it will remain a dead letter. In Canada it will probably go into effect by proclamation as soon as ratified by the Senate, the Governor General having power to accept it under the authority of a law already passed.—[New Brunswick.

THE WHEELING BRIDGE.—We learn from the Wheeling Argus that workmen are busily engaged in taking the broken cables of the late wire-suspension bridge from the river, and coiling them upon two flat boats which are lashed together, and upon which they have rigged a sufficient hoisting apparatus. A large force of workmen are employed upon every practicable portion of the work of re-erection, and "the work goes bravely on."

The Indiana banks are moving with a view to establish an agency in Cincinnati for the redemption of their paper. The proposition is to furnish eastern exchange at a premium to the brokers. The Ohio State Bank is also about to establish an agency on Third street. The probability is that nearly all the country banks will unite in this arrangement, which is the only one that can prevent their notes from being returned for redemption about as fast as issued.

A woman in Wisconsin, who was lately attacked by a bear in the woods, so abused the poor animal with her tongue that it died at her feet.

A lawyer, belonging, as he said, to the profession fond of "fees," offered the following toast at a dinner party:—

Fee simple, and a simple fee,
And all the fees entail,
Are nothing when compared with thee,
Thou best of fees—female.

He probably had a girl in his eye worth her five thousand a year, and who had no poor relations.

There is some poetry, and still more truth in the following:

God and the doctor we alike adore—
Just on the brink of danger, not before;
The danger passed, both are alike required,
God is forgotten, and the doctor slighted.

POETRY IN CALIFORNIA.—A correspondent of the Nevada Democrat sends a patriotic poetical production to that paper, of which the following is a stanza:—

Keep your eye ever fixed on the American Eagle,
Whom we as the proud bird of our destiny hail;
For that wise fowl you can never inveigle,
By depositing salt on his venerable tail!

A Washington letter writer says: Gen. Cass has been rallied this morning by his brother senators, in consequence of the report that he had applied for admission to a Know Nothing lodge, in this city, and been refused. The General bears the refusal with his usual philosophy, as it is understood that his rejection was not positive—his application being still under advisement.

RAGS "IS RIZ."—Housewives, if they have any mercy on publishers, should be careful to save their rags. They are as scarce as gold and bring almost as much, and in consequence paper has "gone up" several pags within as many weeks. Paper makers now offer \$5 a cwt. for rags, and have hard work to get enough at that. Save your rags.—Sandusky Mirror.

A FAMILY PARTY.—Mr. Frederick Kemble, from the neighborhood of Rumney, Harrison county, O., arrived in Steubenville by railroad, last evening, with his wife and nineteen children—twenty-one in all. He is said to own enough land in the state to give each one of his family 160 acres, and retain a "slice" for himself.

The number of arrivals at Saratoga springs, where the Maine liquor law has not yet displayed itself, is from 800 to 1000 per day.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA.—It is currently stated that King Frederick William has openly declared, that "whilst he reigns at Berlin not a Prussian gun shall be fired against Russia."

There are 1700 acres in the Ohio valley, and 500 acres in the Mississippi valley, employed in the grape culture. The total of sparkling wine bottled in 1848, was 284,000 bottles; and of still wines 205,000.

In North America we have fifty different species of oak, while all Europe has only 30 species. North America has 40 species of pines and firs, the United States over 20, while Europe has but 14 species.

THE TURKS AT GALLIOLI.—A great review took place not long since at Gallipoli. A correspondent of the London Times says, that "while frigates and steamers, and line of battle ships are passing up and down in continuous streams, waking up the echoes of the Dardanelles with endless salutes, not a being ever comes down to cast a glance at the scene. The old crones sit knitting in their dingy hovels; the men, if they are Greeks, slouch about the corners in their baggy breeches, and the pretty and dirty little children continue their games without showing the smallest signs of curiosity, though a whole fleet is blazing away its thunder in an imperial welcome within a few yards of them. And as for the Turks, they sit obstinately on their shelves, and smoke their apathetic pipes most pertinaciously—they are so determined in resisting the impulses of their curiosity."

The N. Y. Tribune tells of repeated instances wherein gentlemen wearing the "wide awake" white felt hat have been assaulted by Irishmen, for the reason that these hats are supposed to be the badge of the "Know Nothings." Are all the white hats in this place "Know Nothings?"

A COW WORTH HAVING.—John W. Wilson writes to the Hampshire Gazette:

"I have a cow from whose milk sixty pounds and five ounces of butter were made in twenty-eight days, in the month of December, 1853. The same cow in one week, ending the 26th ult., made seventeen and a half pounds of butter. The daily average of milk was fifty-one and a half pounds.—Her feed was six quarts of equal parts Indian and broom corn meal, and one pumpkin per day. I have no doubt she will average fifty pounds of milk per day for four months to come."

Marshal Ruffin, in Cincinnati, has killed 1500 dogs since the passage of the dog ordinance about two weeks since.

Messrs. Editors—Can any of your philosophical correspondents explain the reason why a brick burnt uncommonly hard at the kiln, is so much heavier than one burnt in the usual manner, of the same material? I confess this fact upsets all my philosophical ideas on the nature of caloric.—[Cin. Gaz.